

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's	)	
Rules Governing the Amateur Radio Service	)	<b>RM-11306</b>
Concerning Permitted Emissions and Control	)	
Requirements	)	

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**Reply Comments of Philip E. Galasso, K2PG to Comments of CQ  
Communications, Inc., Hicksville, NY**

***1. Background and Introduction***

I, Philip E. Galasso, have been a licensed radio amateur since September 27, 1968 and a holder of the Amateur Extra Class license since April 16, 1976, currently with the station callsign K2PG. I use most of the emission modes permitted on the amateur bands from 1800 kHz through 450 MHz. I have held the First Class Radiotelephone Operator License (now the General Radiotelephone Operator License) since 1973 and am employed as the chief operator of AM broadcast station WARM and FM broadcast stations WBHD, WBHT, WBSX, WMGS, and WSJR in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area of Pennsylvania. I also hold a station license in the Experimental Radio Service with the callsign KA2XUK for the purpose of exploring propagation on the 160-190 kHz band.

Reply Comments of Philip E. Galasso, K2PG, to comments filed by CQ Communications, Inc. on RM-

11306

On November 14, 2005, the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (“ARRL”), which promotes itself as “the National Association for Amateur Radio”, submitted a Petition for Rulemaking (“Petition”) seeking to replace the current regulations in Part 97 of the Commission’s Rules governing emission subbands with regulations prescribing frequency subbands defined by occupied bandwidth. ARRL also proposes to relax the control requirements for certain types of amateur radio stations using digital emissions. CQ Communications, Inc. (“CQ”), a publisher of several magazines oriented toward radio hobbyists, filed comments (“Comments”) in the above captioned proceeding.

## ***2. Discussion***

The comments of CQ offer a viable alternative to the rules changes proposed by the ARRL. However, the people at CQ Communications fall into the trap of wanting the Commission to dictate band plans on the various HF bands allocated to the Amateur Radio Service, rather than relying on voluntary band plans set by the amateur radio community. The United States is the only country in the world where HF band plans are still set by government fiat. This results in inefficient use of the spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. In the case of the 7000-7300 kHz band, the 48 contiguous states are the only place in the world where voice and image communications are prohibited below 7150 kHz.<sup>1</sup> Due to sharing with powerful broadcast stations outside of ITU Region 2, the amateur frequencies above 7100 kHz are rendered useless for amateur communications in the late afternoon and throughout the night, precluding meaningful voice or image communications in this band. In justifying continued reliance on rigid, government-dictated band plans, CQ states: “Finally, we are in full agreement with ARRL that it would be inappropriate to remove all subband regulations and allow all amateurs to use whatever mode or bandwidth they like at any point within a designated amateur band. Canada’s success in doing so has been cited as justification for doing so here in the

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<sup>1</sup> Reply Comments of Phil Galasso, K2PG, to comments filed by CQ Communications, Inc. on RM-11306.

U.S. But Canada has far fewer amateurs than does the U.S., and one reason for their band structure is to provide Canadian amateurs with places where they can operate voice without having to compete with their neighbors to the south. If we were to do the same, it would remove all protections...from our Canadian neighbors”.<sup>2</sup> Let’s examine this statement thoroughly. If Canadians need “protection” from U.S. amateur stations, why do they need such protection only on voice modes and not on radiotelegraph and data modes? Since Canadian stations are permitted by their government to use more transmitter power than their U.S. counterparts, at least on the voice modes commonly used on the HF bands (A3E and J3E emissions), why should they require any “protection” at all? Section 97.313 (b) states, “No station may transmit with a transmitter power exceeding 1.5 kW PEP”. Sections 97.313 (c) and (d) prescribe further power restrictions in certain subbands and for stations operated by Novice Class operators. But the Canadian regulations governing amateur radio prescribe a maximum power of “(i) 2,250 W peak envelope power for transmitters that produce any type of single sideband emission, or (ii) 750 W carrier power for transmitters that produce any other type of emission.”<sup>3</sup> And, since there are so many U.S. stations compared to the number of Canadian stations, as acknowledged by CQ, why should a license issued by the Commission preclude us from making efficient use of the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio Service? One band where voluntary band plans have worked for many years is the 1800-2000 kHz (“160 meter”) band. That band is not divided into emission subbands by the Commission’s Rules. The only time that the voluntary band plans are disregarded is during contests<sup>4</sup> sponsored by *CQ, The Radio Amateur’s*

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<sup>2</sup> Comments of CQ Communications, Inc., Page 8

<sup>3</sup> Industry Canada Radio Information Circular, RIC-2, Issue 5, July, 2005, Page 4, Paragraph 10.2 (b)

<sup>4</sup> A “contest” is a type of amateur radio operating in which stations try to contact as many other stations as possible within a 24 to 48-hour period, earning a specified number of points per contact.

Scores may be multiplied by the number of geographical entities, political subdivisions, or callsign Reply Comments of Philip E. Galasso, K2PG, to comments filed by CQ Communications, Inc. on RM-prefixes worked, or other criteria may serve as score multipliers.

*Journal* (flagship publication of CQ Communications, Inc.) and ARRL. For a sponsor of such contest activity to clamor for continued government overregulation of the Amateur Radio Service when its contests cause the problem of interference between stations using incompatible emission modes is the ultimate hypocrisy. It seems that a better way of ensuring compliance with the band plans set voluntarily by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) during such contests would be for CQ and other sponsors of these contests to require that participants observe the band plan for the band(s) used and to disqualify any station that violates the band plan. A score multiplier of *zero* would be a powerful incentive indeed to ensure adherence to band plans.

### ***3. A Counterproposal and Conclusion***

A far more sensible approach to amateur radio regulation than that proposed in the ARRL Petition and in the comments of CQ Communications may be seen in the Canadian regulations governing amateur radio. In Schedule I, which lists the frequency bands allocated to amateur radio stations in Canada, *no* emission types are specified at all. Nor are these frequency bands segmented into subbands. The Canadian regulations specify a maximum bandwidth *for each entire band*. For example, the maximum bandwidth permitted on the bands 1.8 through 24.990 MHz is 6 kHz (1 kHz on 10.100-10.150 MHz).<sup>5</sup> To facilitate experimentation with a wide variety of analog and digital communications (not just J3E analog emission and the “digital mode *du jour*”), I would propose a maximum bandwidth of 9 kHz on the 1.8 through 24.990 MHz bands, with a 1 kHz bandwidth limit on the 10.100 to 10.150 MHz band. Semi-automatically controlled stations, however, should be treated as repeaters and limited to frequencies above 29.5 MHz.

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<sup>5</sup>Reply Comments of Philip E. Galasso, K2RCL, to RM-11306, filed July 29, 2005, at 10:22 a.m., in RM-11306, Canadian Radio Information Board, at 10:22 a.m., July 29, 2005, Page 6.

#### ***4. Appendix***

The following are suggested changes to Part 97 of the Commission's Rules:

##### **97.221 Automatically Controlled Stations Transmitting RTTY or Data Emissions**

(c) Automatically controlled stations transmitting any type of RTTY or data emission, including packet or any of the TOR codes, shall be restricted to amateur frequencies above 29.5 MHz.

##### **97.305 Authorized Emissions**

(a) An amateur station may transmit any emission within the bandwidth limits specified in Paragraph (c), below, on frequencies authorized to the control operator. The bandwidth of a signal shall be determined by measuring the frequency band occupied by that signal at a level that is 26 dB below the maximum amplitude of that signal.

(b) A station may transmit a test emission on any frequency authorized to the control operator for brief periods for experimental purposes. (Remainder deleted)

© A station may transmit on the frequencies indicated, subject to such frequencies being authorized to the control operator:

<b>Wavelength band</b>	<b>Frequencies</b>	<b>Maximum bandwidth authorized</b>
160 m	1800-2000 kHz	9 kHz
80 m	3500-4000 kHz	9 kHz
60 m <sup>6</sup>	5167.5 kHz	2.8 kHz
60 m <sup>7</sup>	5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, 5405	2.8 kHz

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<sup>6</sup> Operation on this frequency is restricted to stations in the State of Alaska, using J3E emission

<sup>7</sup> Reply Comments of Philip E. Galasso, K2PG, to comments filed by CQ Communications, Inc. on RM-

	kHz	
40 m	7000-7300 kHz	9 kHz
30 m	10.100-10.150 MHz	1 kHz
20 m	14.000-14.350 MHz	9 kHz
17 m	18.068-18.168 MHz	9 kHz
15 m	21.100-21.450 MHz	9 kHz
12 m	24.890-24.990 MHz	9 kHz
10 m	28.0-29.7 MHz	20 kHz
6 m	50.0-54.0 MHz	30 kHz
2 m	144.0-148.0 MHz	30 kHz
1.25 m	222-225 MHz	100 kHz
70 cm	420-450 MHz <sup>8</sup>	12 MHz
33 cm	902-928 MHz	12 MHz
23 cm	1.240-1.300 GHz	Not specified
13 cm	2.300-2.310 and 2.39-2.45 GHz	Not specified
9 cm	3.300-3.500 GHz	Not specified
5 cm	5.650-5.925 GHz	Not specified
3 cm	10.0-10.5 GHz	Not specified
1.2 cm	24.00-24.25 GHz	Not specified
6 mm	47.0-47.2 GHz	Not specified
4 mm	75.5-81.0 GHz	Not specified
2.5 mm	119.98-120.02 GHz	Not specified
1 mm	241-250 GHz	Not specified
	All above 300 GHz	Not specified

<sup>7</sup> Operation on this band is restricted by the NTIA to five specific channels, J3E emission only, at 50 watts PEP.

<sup>8</sup> Frequencies 420-450 MHz are not available for amateur use by G4C Communications, Inc. on RM-11306

**97.307 Emission Standards**

(f) (Deleted)

**97.309 (Deleted)**

**97.311 (Deleted)**

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006

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